

Food Access in Knoxville/Knox County Resources during the COVID-19 Pandemic

In an effort to share information about food access resources in our community, we've compiled a list of services and programs that help feed Knox County residents. Each agency or group is the expert on their services, so start there if you have questions about qualifications or costs. You can also visit the City of Knoxville's website, <http://knoxvilletn.gov/covid19>, call 211, or visit <http://tn211.mycommunitypt.com/> with questions.

Resources for School-Age Children

- Two days' worth of meals (breakfast and lunch) are distributed on Monday and three days' worth of meals on Wednesday
- Distribution is 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at 38 designated emergency feeding sites via drive-thru or walk-up for children to consume at home.
- Children must be present to pick up meals
- No income restrictions

Contact: Knox County Schools: <https://www.knoxschools.org/mealinfo>

Supported by: Great Schools Partnership, Community Action Committee (CAC)
Summer Feeding Program, City of Knoxville Parks and Recreations

For Seniors

Prepared meals —

Mobile Meals and Senior Nutrition Program

- Must be 60 years old, homebound due physical and mental conditions, and unable to prepare food
- Meals five days a week, including holidays
- No income restrictions

Contact: Community Action Committee (CAC): 865-524-2786 or
<http://www.knoxseniors.org/mobile/>

Grocery shopping —

Area Stores

- Call area grocery stores for shopping, curbside delivery and home delivery options available at their locations and any associated fees

SCHAS Out Shopping (SOS)

- Provides grocery shopping services for seniors 62 homebound and older anyone that is homebound or unable to leave home due to COVID-19
- Able to use SNAP benefits

Contact: Senior Citizens Home Assistance Services (SCHAS): 865-523-2920 or <https://schas.org/s-o-s-program>

Individuals and Families

Food assistance

- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is a federal program that provides funds to eligible low-income individuals and families to purchase eligible food items, including fresh fruits and vegetables, with an Electronic Benefits Transfer card. Call 1-866-311-4287 or apply online at <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/for-families/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap.html>
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Call the Knox County Health Department at 865-215-5016 or visit <https://www.knoxcounty.org/health/wic.php>

Food pantries*

- Check the availability and hours of area food pantries and possible delivery of emergency food by contacting the Compassion Coalition, 865-251-1591 or visit <https://compassioncoalition.org/covid-19-resources/>

Salvation Army

- Salvation Army is providing a variety of services to qualifying individuals. Learn more at salvationarmyknoxville.org or by calling 865-971-4907

Local food

- Several, but not all, area farmers markets accept SNAP and offer Double Up Food Bucks for SNAP customers.
- The opportunity to preorder and prepay for pick-up is available from many individual farmers and providers.

Contact: Nourish Knoxville, <https://www.nourishknoxville.org/>
865-805-8687

College students

Area colleges are working with their students to make sure all have access to food.

- University of Tennessee: <https://endhunger.utk.edu/>
- Pellissippi State College - Pellissippi Pantry:
<http://www.pstcc.edu/advocacy/pantry.php> or call 865-539-7346

Homeless

- Area homeless service organizations such as Volunteer Ministry Center (VMC) <https://www.vmcinc.org/> and Knox Area Rescue Mission <https://karm.org/> are providing food, with support from the Knox County Association of Baptists.
- Individuals and groups that want to help homeless individuals are encouraged to work with organizations rather than establishing impromptu food/meal donation events

* Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee is an important supplier that partners with non-profit agencies, including many listed here as part of our food supply chain, and are not listed as a direct person-to-person provider.